

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously presented) Heart valve prosthesis for placement in a valve of a patient's heart, said valve prosthesis comprising a surgical implant including a curved member and a skirt, said curved member having first and second ends and being adapted to form a partial ring along a portion of one of the valve annulae in the patient's heart, and said skirt extending along said curved member and depending therefrom, further including a plurality of struts extending radially inward from said curved member, said struts being unattached to said skirt and being positioned on one side thereof so that said skirt can move away from the struts during diastole.
2. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 1 wherein said curved member is flexible.
3. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 1 wherein said curved member is rigid.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously presented) The prosthesis of claim 1 wherein said struts are integrally formed with said curved member.
6. (Previously presented) The prosthesis of claim 1 wherein said skirt has an inner perimeter and said struts terminate before said inner perimeter.
7. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 1 wherein said skirt comprises prosthetic tissue.
8. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 1 wherein said skirt comprises ePTFE.

9. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 1 further including fibrous mesh surrounding said curved member.

10. (Previously presented) Heart valve prosthesis for placement in a valve of a patient's heart, said valve prosthesis comprising a surgical implant including a curved ring shaped member and a skirt, said ring shaped member being adapted to form a ring along one of the valve annulae in the patient's heart, and said skirt extending along at least a portion of said ring shaped member and depending therefrom, further including a plurality of struts extending radially inward from said curved member, said struts being unattached to said skirt and being positioned on one side thereof so that said skirt can move away from the struts during diastole.

11. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 10 wherein said curved member is flexible.

12. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 10 wherein said curved member is rigid.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously presented) The prosthesis of claim 10 wherein said struts are integrally formed with said ring shaped member.

15. (Previously presented) The prosthesis of claim 10 wherein said skirt has an inner perimeter and said struts terminate before said inner perimeter.

16. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 10 wherein said skirt comprises prosthetic tissue.

17. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 10 wherein said skirt comprises ePTFE.

18. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 10 further including fibrous mesh surrounding said ring shaped member.

Claims 19-27 (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) A method for delivering heart valve prosthesis comprising:
providing heart valve prosthesis having a curved member and a skirt
extending therefrom and a plurality of self-closing clips, each having two pointed ends,
and an open configuration and a closed configuration;
securing the curved member to said plurality of self-closing clips with the
two pointed ends of each clip penetrated into the curved member;
placing the curved member on the mitral valve annulus of a patient's
heart;
ejecting all of the clips simultaneously to penetrate into the mitral valve
annulus and move toward their closed configuration to secure the heart valve prosthesis
to the valve annulus.~~The method of claim 27~~
wherein the heart valve prosthesis has a plurality of struts extending
radially inward from said curved member, said struts being unattached to said skirt and
being positioned on one side thereof so that said skirt can move away from the struts
during diastole.

Claims 29-36 (Cancelled)